

A Work Session of the Albemarle County School Board was held on February 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., Western Albemarle High School, 5941 Rockfish Gap Turnpike, Crozet, Virginia 22932.

PRESENT: Dr. Kate Acuff; Mr. Jason Buyaki; Mr. Graham Paige; Mr. David Oberg; Mr. Stephen Koleszar; Mr. Jonno Alcaro; and Ms. Katrina Callsen.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent; Mr. Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Matthew Haas, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Debora Collins, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Ira Socol, Executive Director of Technologies and Innovation; Mr. Jackson Zimmermann, Assistant Director of Planning and Budget; Ms. Amanda Farley, Senior Assistant County Attorney; and Mrs. Jennifer Johnston, Clerk of the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 1.1. Closed Meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** that the School Board go into a closed meeting as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia under: subsection 1 to discuss and consider: assignments of administrative staff; and subsection 3 to discuss and consider possible lease of property owned by another party, the acquisition of which would be for a public purpose and the discussion of which in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Mr. Oberg **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Closed Meeting Certification.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** that the Board certify by recorded vote that to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered in the Closed Meeting. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion. **Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded votes:**

AYES: Dr. Acuff, Mr. Oberg; Mr. Buyaki, Mr. Paige, Mr. Koleszar, Mr. Callsen, and Mr. Alcaro.

NAYS: None.

Motion carried by a 7:0 vote.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to appoint Mr. Doug Granger as the principal of Agnor-Hurt Elementary School effective immediately, and to appoint Ms. Megan Wood as the principal of Sutherland Middle School as of July 1, 2018. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Call to Order.

At 6:30 p.m., Dr. Acuff, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 1.3. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 2.1. Agenda.

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the agenda. Mr. Koleszar **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 3.1. Approval of Consent Agenda.

- 3.1 Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3.2 Personnel Action

3.3 For Information: Murray High School Charter Extension

Mr. Alcaro offered a **motion** to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Paige **seconded** the motion, **and the motion passed.**

Agenda Item No. 4.1. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda. None.

Agenda Item No. 5.1. Announcements.

Mr. Koleszar provided Ms. Johnston with a certificate of recognition for her work as School Board Clerk. February 19 – 23, 2018 was recognized as School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

Dr. Haas said that after a women's basketball game on February 19, 2018, Fluvanna High School team members found a poster in a classroom that contained racially insensitive images and themes on a project for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It was reported that the poster offended the players. The concerns were posted on social media. Western Albemarle administrators reached out to Fluvanna administrators to express concern and started an investigation. It was determined that the poster was created as a project to analyze themes from the novel such as racial tension, injustice and poverty. He shared a statement from the principal of Western Albemarle High School regarding the incident.

Agenda Item No. 6.1. School Board/Superintendent Business.

Mr. Alcaro said that today at Albemarle High School there was a celebration of the arts for Black History Month. One of the recognitions during the event was of Katrina Callsen and Graham Paige as being the first time two members of the Albemarle County School Board of African descent served at the same time.

Agenda Item No. 7.1. Learning in Our Digital Tomorrow – Exploring our Learning Space Technologies.

Mr. Socol provided for the Board's consideration information on digital learning in the division. He said that the Department of Learning, Engineering, Access and Design would present the tools that they believe will support students now and in the future.

At 6:48 p.m., the Board moved to the Library and walked around individually. On display in the Western Albemarle High School Library were some of the new tools which LEAD believes are essential to furthering student learning. These new tools include:

- New ideas in display technology, specifically ClearTouch panels that move and even flip to become 'tabletop' computers, all the while supporting multi-touch/multi-student operation.
- New technology tools in micro-computing, which allow our student to learn to code and engineer technology in a safe and engaging environment.
- New approaches in Universal Design for Learning, which are the ways our students interact with their ACPS laptop to maximize opportunity.
- New equipment to promote interaction, engagement, and immersive learning, specifically our Virtual Reality setups that allow students a variety of experiences in a safe, monitored, and guided atmosphere.

In addition, the Board could explore the workings of our Student Help Desks, and staff was on-hand to help the Board better understand the people behind these opportunities – the largely unseen employees who keep our networks, computers, and information systems running, all day, every day.

The Board reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 7.2. 2nd Quarter Financial Report.

Mr. Zimmermann provided for the Board's consideration the November 2017, December 2017, and January 2018 Year-To-Date Financial Reports, Operating Expense Reports, and Self-Sustaining Funds Reports.

Revenues: March 31 Average Daily Membership (ADM), upon which state revenues are based, is projected to be 13,578. State revenues are currently anticipated to increase by approximately \$345K due to higher than anticipated enrollment and slightly improved state projections for sales tax contained in the governor's caboose revisions released in December. Local and federal revenues are anticipated to meet budget.

Expenses: Compensation (salary and benefits) comprise more than 84% of overall anticipated expenses in the division. Compensation is analyzed following the November payroll as hiring and adjustments have stabilized. Following many months of lower than budgeted utilization of health benefits, an unusual premium holiday was declared for the months of December and January. Both the employee and employer were beneficiaries of this premium holiday. This 2-month premium holiday resulted in immediate budgetary savings of approximately \$3.1M. Additionally following this extraordinary event, both employer and employee premiums are anticipated to be reduced to FY2016/17 levels, resulting in anticipated additional savings of \$393K by year-end. Total one-time savings to the division in health insurance is anticipated to be approximately \$3.5M. Other saving in salaries and other benefits due to turnover and other factors is anticipated to be \$690K; however, 7 more months of payroll remain in the fiscal year. Total potential one-time saving in the current year is projected to be more than \$4.2M

Balance of Expenses over Revenues: January revenues slightly exceed expenses by \$874K. State revenues collected totaled slightly more than \$12.7 million.

One-Time Savings: Staff presented a plan to address the use of one-time savings in the current year to meet immediate needs and provide reserves for future needs.

Proposed FY17/18 One Time Funding Expenses

Appropriation Category	Item	Amount
Instruction	Investigations Teaching Materials	\$85,000
	HS Center Planning Leadership Position	\$50,000
	ESOL- iPad Replacements (30)	\$14,040
	ESOL - Headphones for STAMP testing	\$8,625
	National Society of Black Engineers: AHS/BMS	\$10,000
	Instruction Subtotal	\$167,665
Building Services	Modernization Project Reserve (for Overages/ Add-Alts)	\$250,000
	Classroom Furnishings	\$160,000
	Electrochemical Cleaning System	\$20,000
	Pilot HS Center - One Time Costs	\$425,000
	COB 3rd Floor Renovations (Phase 1)	\$600,000
	Building Services Subtotal	\$1,455,000
Admin, Attend & Health	HR - Completion of Laserfiche Scanning	\$29,000
	Admin, Attend & Health Subtotal	\$29,000
Technology	LTE Project-Equipment	\$130,000
	LTE Project - Infrastructure Tech	\$40,000
	MESA Senior Computers	\$60,000
	Digitizing Student Records	\$50,000
	Visitor Management System	\$100,000
	Security Cameras (Digital Upgrade + Added Storage)	\$50,000
	New Web System and Paperless System (Initial Costs)	\$40,000
	Technology Subtotal	\$470,000
Transportation	Driver Tablet Replacement	\$20,000
	Passenger Vans (4)	\$100,000
	New Vehicle for Behind the Wheel Instruction	\$18,000
	Transportation Subtotal	\$120,000
GRAND TOTAL:		\$2,241,665

Mr. Tistadt said that he would like to adjust the list by adding the use of \$65,000 to place a bullet resistant film on classroom doors.

Mr. Alcaro asked if the placement of the film would be completed by the end of the school year.

Mr. Koleszar said that the Board should contact Delegates Toscano and Landes regarding the Composite Index and the loss the division will see in funding.

Dr. Acuff asked with the savings and the proposal to cover the gap this year is money being reserved for the FY19/20 budget cycle.

Dr. Acuff said that a Board of Supervisors member recommended the School Board write a letter to them asking them to contact legislators about the Composite Index issue. **There was Board consensus for Dr. Acuff to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors.**

Agenda Item No. 8.1. Public Comment.

Ms. Rachel Carlton is an Orange County parent. She said that at a junior varsity basketball game on February 6, there were racial taunting and physical confrontation by the Western Albemarle team. Western Albemarle teams tend to use racial bullying during games.

Ms. Tanya Washington is an Orange County parent. She said that there needs to be accountability for the behavior of Western Albemarle team members. Western Albemarle is known to use racial bullying.

Ms. Alyssa Waller is an Orange County parent. She said that Western Albemarle is known for its racial culture. It has been accepted for too long. Students and coaches need to be held accountable for their behavior.

Ms. Sherry Flowers is an Orange County parent. She said that we cannot change how people raise their children. However, schools can discipline those who commit unacceptable and immoral acts. Her son has been called racial names during football games against Western Albemarle. Hatred and racism has no place in schools. Her daughter, Ka'ara, shared her experience as an athlete.

Ms. Tanesha Hudson is a City of Charlottesville parent. The School Board has an issue with race, but the issue is only when the person is black. Racism should not be tolerated. She said that we need to burn *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The school division is white washed. She said that Western Albemarle and Albemarle has always been known for racial issues.

Ms. Krista McMullen is a Cale parent. She was a former English teacher at Western Albemarle. She does not feel that the school division is doing enough to show that racial bullying will not be tolerated. She said that the community needs to be told what happened on the night of the Western Albemarle and Fluvanna girls' basketball game. Western Albemarle should forfeit the game.

Ms. Amanda Moxham is a parent. She said that the Board has two choices: 1) continue to play "whack a mole" with racially charged incidents popping up in schools or 2) be proactive. She feels that there needs to be sweeping changes policies and procedures to be in alignment with culturally responsive teaching and trauma informed approach used. She said that there is a two-page policy about gangs but nothing on racism. The Western Albemarle basketball team should forfeit the game.

Ms. Aubrey Israel Hampton is a parent. She addressed the racist incident that happened at the Western Albemarle versus Fluvanna basketball game. Children were harmed. There is no outrage from the Board, all she hears is excuses. There was no public apology. Racial imagery should not be allowed in schools.

Ms. Sabrina Feggans said that her daughter was in an altercation with another student, and her daughter now has felony assault charges. Her daughter is 14 years old. The system has set us up for failure. What are we doing for the safety of our children? Kids are not being protected.

Ms. Megan Argaud is an Albemarle resident. She asked at what point the Board would take a stand for those who are marginalized. Apologies and excuses are no longer acceptable.

Mr. Don Gathers is a City resident. He said that we cannot ignore reported racial issues at sporting events. Western Albemarle needs to apologize to Fluvanna. The students in Albemarle County deserve better. The team needs to be held accountable and a message needs to be sent that hatred of this type will not be tolerated.

Ms. Renata Thompson is an Orange County parent. She should not have to deal with racial bullying today. She asked the Board what are you going to do.

Agenda Item No. 9.1. Other Business by Board Members/Superintendent. None.

Agenda Item No. 10.1. Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No. 11.1. Certify Closed Meeting. None.

Agenda Item No 12.1. Adjournment

At 8:49 p.m., Dr. Acuff, hearing no objections, adjourned the meeting of the Albemarle County School Board.

Chairman

Clerk